

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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R 061145Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9707
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: VN, CE, PINT, PORG

SUBJ: MARCH 2-5 VISIT OF SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV)
PRIME MINISTER

1. MARCH 1-2 PUBLICITY IN CONNECTION WITH PHAM VAN DONG MARCH 2-5 VISIT TO SRI LANKA WAS RELATIVELY LOW KEYED. APPARENT SRV EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE CARRIED IN COLOMBO MEDIA MARCH 1 REFERRED TO "U.S. IMPERIALISTS" INTERVENTION AND "WAR OF AGGRESSION FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS AGAINST THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE". THE BONG SEN SONG DANCE AND MUSIC ARTISTIC ENSEMBLE OF HO CHI MINH CITY" GAVE A SPARSELY ATTENDED SHOW EVENING MARCH 1. ONLY REFERENCE TO U.S. INTERPRETED INTO ENGLISH FROM VIETNAMESE WAS IN CONNECTION WITH DANCE OF JOYFUL VILLAGE MAIDENS CELEBRATING LIBERATION OF THEIR VILLAGE "UPON PANIC STRICKEN WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. MARINES."

2. COMMUNIST PARTY OF SRI LANKA ISSUED A STATEMENT WELCOMING VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER PHAM VAN DONG WHICH NOTED "THE BRILLIANT
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VICTORY OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE OVER THE U.S. IMPERIALISTIC AGGRESSORS GREATLY INSPIRE ALL PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN OUR COUNTRY."

3. MARCH 2-5 SCHEDULE INCLUDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHAM VAN DONG TO SPEAK PUBLICLY AT MARCH 3 LUNCHEON AND MARCH 5 SRI LANKA BROADCASTING CORPORATION INTERVIEW FOLLOWED BY PRESS

CONFERENCE. FULL TEXTS BEING CABLED AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.
REST OF SCHEDULE WAS STANDARD VIP TOUR INCLUDING FULL DAY IN
KANDY WITH VISITS TO BOTANICAL GARDENS, TEMPLE OF THE TOOTH,
ARTS ASSOCIATION AND MAHAVELI DIVERSION SCHEMES.

4. COMMENT: ATMOSPHERE OF VISIT RELAXED WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT
OF GOOD NATURED CONFUSION. FOR EXAMPLE, SOVIET AMBASSADOR
HELD RECEPTION FOR NEW EMBASSY COUNSELOR AT SAME TIME AS SRV
DANCE TROUP PERFORMANCE. NO SOVIET OFFICIALS ATTENDED LATTER
WHILE CHINESE AMBASSADOR AND ENTOURAGE MADE ELABORATE APOLOGIES
WHEN DEPARTING SOVIET FETE TO BE WITH SRV FRIENDS BY CURTAIN
TIME, LEAVING LOCAL PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN VISIBLE QUANDRY.
SRI LANKAN OFFICIALS HAVE GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY TO INFORM ANY-
ONE WHO WOULD LISTEN THAT GSL NON-ALIGNMENT POLICY INCLUDES
NOT TAKING SIDES BETWEEN SRV AND KAMPUCHEA, WHICH NOT REPRESENTED
IN COLOMBO.

5. AD HOC MUSIC CRITICS MEETING ON NCNA CHIEF, CZECH CHARGE
AND DCM IMMEDIATELY AFTER BONG SEN PERFORMANCE RAPIDLY REACHED
AGREEMENT THAT:

A. GIRLS MUST HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR POLITICAL RELIABILITY
RATHER THAN GRACE AND

B. ALL WESTERN INSTRUMENT ORCHESTRA HAD DECIDED MUSCOVITE
STYLE.
WRIGGINS

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